A-320 aircraft was issued on the 8th July, 1988.

(b) Issuing of a letter of intent did not in any way bind either Government or Indian Airlines to the purchase of the aircraft.

Training to Youths by Pakistan Army

658. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan army, besides some other agencies, is giving arms training to Kashmiri youths in various camps across the border for subversive activities in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government are aware that training centres have been set up in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir for imparting training to subversive elements from Jammu and Kashmir.

Government's deep concerns in this regard have been conveyed to the Government of Pakistan.

Complet'on of Madasa-Kapadganj-Nadiad Railways Project

659. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress of the Madasa-Kapadganj-Nadiad railway broad gauge conversion project;

(b) what amount was allocated in the last budget for the project; and

(c) by when this project is likely to be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) 9 per cent.

(b) Rs. 1000/-.

(c) Its progress and completion will depend on availability of resources in the coming years.

Coordination among the IAAI, NAA, AI and IA

660. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether proper coordination exists between IAAI, NAA and AI/IA at the major airports in our country;

(b) whether Government have fixed any responsibility due to human failure for minor mishaps and damages to Aircraft at the major Airports in the country in the year 1988; and

(c) what action is being taken by Government in this direction to imbibe full confidence in the travelling air passengers in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Based on the findings and recommendations of Director General of Civil Aviation and Airlines, disciplinary action is taken against the erring officials for human failure so as to ensure safe air travel.

Confederation of P.L.O. with Jordan

661. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report from Cairo that a senior officer of Palestine Liberation Organisation has indicated willingness of the organisation to join wth Jordan in a confederation style Government; and

(b) if so, whether Government consider this offer as a practical and plausible solution of the P.L.O. problem; if so, what

steps are being taken by Government to promote the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K. K. TEWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A confederation between Jordan and an independent Palestinian State is one of several proposals under discussion. The matter is essentially one for the concerned parties to decide. India will fully support any action agreed to by them which will secure the just and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to self determination and independence.

Delay in Delhi-Guwahati air service

662. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of flights to and from Delhi and Guwahati which had been delayed in 1988 till September by Indian Airlines; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the Aircrafts fly in this line are sufficiently old and need urgent replacement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) During the period January 1988 to September 1988, out of a total of 1,055 flights of Indian Airlines between Delhi and Guwahati. 437 were delayed, of which only 33 were in the control of Indian Airlines.

(b) No, Sir.

Raising of the Compensation money to Air Victims

663. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that compensation of Rs. 2 lakhs for the air crash victims is too small;

(b) whether any proposal for raising this amount to Rs. 5 lakhs has been pending consideration by Government for long as reported in 'Sunday Observer' of 23rd October, 1988; and

(c) what compensation is paid to domestic passengers in US and various other European countries and Japan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) to (c) The carriers liability to make payment of compensation in the event of death or injury to passengers is governed by international instruments like Warsaw Convention 1929, as modified by the Hague Protocol 1955, The Carriage by Air Act, 1972 which flows out of the above Convention and Protocol prescribes a limit of liability on the Carrier. In 1973 this limit was raised from Rs. 42,000/- to Rs. 1,00,000/- for domestic carriage for a passenger of 12 years or more years of age. In 1980 this limit was raised from Rs. 1,00,000/- to Rs. 2,00,000/. Information relating to limit of liability in other countries is under collection.

Compulsory study of Sanskrit

664. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state what steps have been taken by Government to popularise and for compulsory study of Sanskrit language in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): The Central Board of Secondary Education has this year revised the scheme of studies for secondary examinations from 1993 onwards to ensure adherence to provisions of National Policy on Education which would require a candidate to study Hindi, English and one of the modern Indian languages. Sanskrit will be taught along with Hindi to candidates taking Hindi 'A' level course Also candidates will be able to offer one of the seven classical and European languages, including Sanskrit, as an additional optional subject. The States have their own agencies